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Soviet Statement on Downing of Airliner

MOSCOW, Sept. 6 (AP)—Here is the English-language text, as released by Tass, of the Soviet government's statement on the downing of the South Korean airliner:

The Tass statement, published on Sept. 2 of this year on instruction of the Soviet government, already reported the rude violation of the state frontiers of the Soviet Union by a plane which on the night of Aug. 31-Sept. 1 intruded into the airspace of the U.S.S.R. over the Kamchatka Peninsula and then in the course of two hours had flown over the Sea of Okhotsk and Sakhalin Island. It also mentioned the measures taken by the antiaircraft defenses, both ground and air ones, with the aim of forcing the plane to land at one of the airfields on Sakhalin Island. The subsequent investigation confirmed the earlier mentioned data and supplemented it.

The intruder plane entered the airspace over Kamchatka in an area where a most important base of the strategic nuclear forces of the U.S.S.R. is located. At the same time—and this is now admitted by the American side—another spy plane of the U.S. Air Force, a RC135, that is similar to it, was in the same area near the Soviet border on the same altitude.

Several Soviet interceptor planes were sent aloft. One of them controlled the actions of the American RC135 plane. A second flew into the area where the intruder plane was and signaled to it that it had intruded into the airspace of the U.S.S.R. The warnings were ignored.

When it was approaching Sakhalin Island the intruder was again intercepted by fighter planes of the antiaircraft defenses. And again attempts were made to establish contact with it, including with the help of the known general call signal on the international emergency frequency of 121.5 megacycles. Contrary to the false contentions of the United States president, Soviet antiaircraft

defense fighter planes are fitted out with communication equipment in which this frequency is fixed. So these signals had to be received by the intruder plane, but it did not respond to them. Neither did it respond, as it has been said earlier, also to other signals and actions of the Soviet fighter planes.

The Soviet radio control services picked up short coded radio signals transmitted from time to time, such signals that are usually used in transmitting intelligence information.

The antiaircraft forces command of the area, having analyzed thoroughly the actions of the intruder plane, its route passing also in the area of Sakhalin over military bases, arrived at the conclusion that a reconnaissance aircraft performing special tasks was in the airspace of the U.S.S.R. We arrived at this conclusion also because of the fact that the plane was flying over strategically important areas of the Soviet Union. The fighter plane made warning shots with tracer shells along the route of the intruder plane. Such a measure is envisaged by international rules.

Since even after this the intruder plane did not obey the demand to fly to a Soviet airfield and tried to evade pursuit, the interceptor-fighter plane of the antiaircraft defenses fulfilled the order of the command post to stop the flight. Such actions are fully in keeping with the law on the state border of the U.S.S.R. which has been published.

The Soviet pilots, in stopping the actions of the intruder plane, could not know that it was a civilian aircraft. It was flying without naviga-

tion lights, at the height of night, in conditions of bad visibility and was not answering the signals. The assertions of the United States president that Soviet pilots knew that it was a civilian aircraft are not in keeping with reality.

Dozens of international air routes pass over Soviet territory. Foreign planes have been flying over them for many years and nothing has been happening to them so far as they observe the rules.

We will continue to act in keeping with our legislation, which is fully in accord with international regulations. This wholly applies to the question of ensuring the security of our borders.

It is the sovereign right of every state to protect its borders, in particular, its airspace. This is one of the commonly recognized principles of international law on which relations between states rest. So the U.S. president makes himself out as an ignoramus saying, as he did in his address on Sept. 5, that the Soviet Union guards its borders in what it claims is its airspace.

But the point here, of course, is not the ignorance of one U.S. official or another. The point is a deliberate preplanned action in an area which is strategically important to the Soviet Union. The instigators of that action could not help realizing what its outcome could be but went ahead with a major intelligence operation with the use, as is now becoming clear, of a civilian plane, deliberately exposing its passengers to mortal danger.

Can anyone imagine anything more cynical than Reagan's statement that no one will ever know how data was fed into the plane's computer which subsequently directed

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